

**Process for preparing reactive polyether polyols having an ethylene oxide end block**

5    Abstract

Process for preparing polyether polyols having an end block of ethylene oxide by addition of alkylene oxides onto H-functional starter substances, in which

- 10    A)    a polyether polyol precursor is prepared by means of double metal cyanide (DMC) catalysis in a semicontinuous mode of operation in which previously prepared polyether polyol together with the DMC catalyst are placed in a reactor and H-functional starter substance and propylene oxide are added continuously,
- 15    B)    the polyether polyol precursor from stage A) is reacted with propylene oxide or an ethylene oxide/propylene oxide mixture in the presence of the DMC catalyst in a continuously operating reactor to give a polyether polyol intermediate,
- 20    C)    the intermediate from stage B) is mixed with an alkali metal hydroxide as catalyst and
- 25    D)    reacted with ethylene oxide in a continuously operating reactor to give the final product,
- E)    the catalyst is separated off from the final product obtained in stage D).